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Redwood Bend Trail, Houston, TX 77062 (US). **MURPHY, Carl, David** [US/US]; 5940 Hidden Valley Loop, Sandia, TX 78383 (US).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **DOW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES INC.** [US/US]; Washington Street, 1790 Building, Midland, MI 48674 (US).

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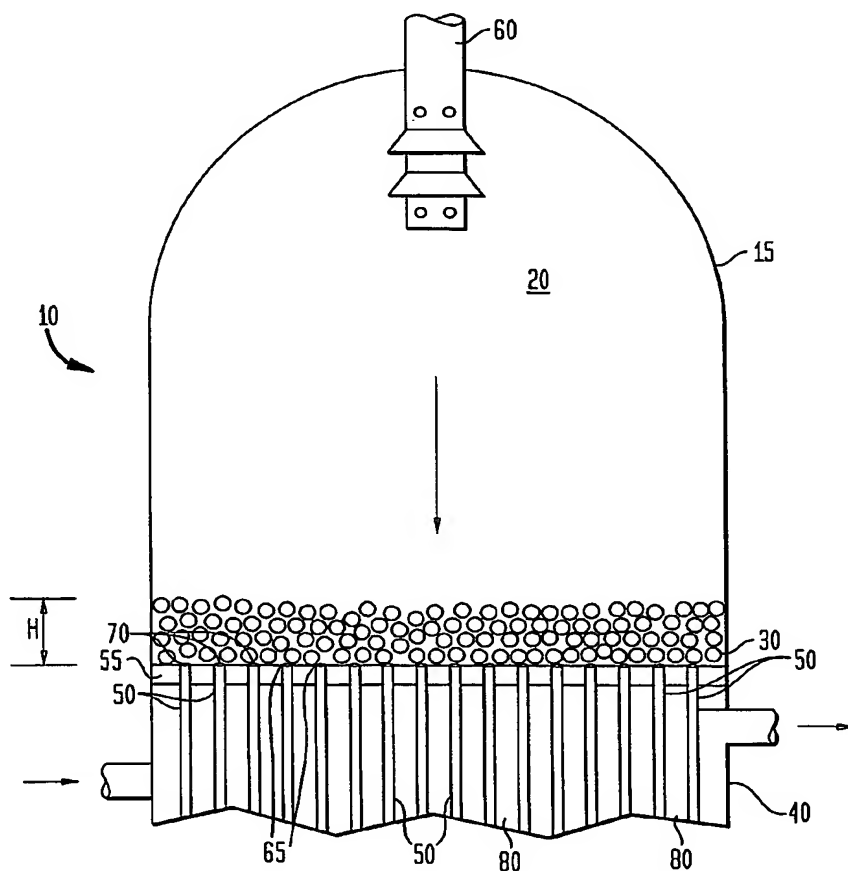
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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **FRUCHEY, Olan, Stanley** [US/US]; 14507 Redwood Bend Trail, Houston, TX 77062 (US). **KEYES, Brian, Robert** [US/US]; 14826

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(54) Title: OXIDATION PROCESS AND REACTOR WITH MODIFIED FEED SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: In an oxidation process in a shell and tube reactor (10), an improvement is disposing a short bed of packing material (30) about the tube (50) inlets. The short bed operates to direct contaminants derived from heat exchange media away from the headspace (20) and thus prevents formation of combustible gas mixtures.